



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Welcome to the Legislative Update for September 16, 2016

This email newsletter is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. **Between legislative sessions of the Arizona State Legislature**, the *Legislative Updates* focuses on news and information. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

(Be sure to open the [links](#) throughout this issue for the latest information and resources.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Governor's statement regarding the passing of Governor Rose Mofford, at age 94, can be found [HERE](#).**

\*\*\*\*\*

## FEDERAL OVERVIEW

### Updates

#### **Halt Tax Increases on the Middle Class and Seniors Act**

Introduced on 9/22/2015 by Representative Martha McSally (AZ-2)

(Sec 2) This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to roll back the increased threshold for determining the amount of the tax deduction for medical expenses. Currently, individual taxpayers under age 65 may only deduct those medical expenses that exceed 10% of their adjusted gross income. This bill reduces that percentage to 7.5% for all taxpayers for tax years beginning after December 31, 2015.

On 9/14/2016, received in the Senate. (One of 17 Cosponsors – Representative Kyrsten Sinema - AZ-9)

## **Other legislation**

### **H.R.6012**

#### **BREATH Act of 2016**

Introduced on 9/13/2016 by Representative Larry Bucshon (IN-8)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve Medicare beneficiary access to ventilators, and for other purposes.

On 9/13/2016, referred to House Ways and Means.

### **H.R.5985**

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016**

Introduced on 9/9/2016 by Representative Jeff Miller (FL-1)

Section 103 of the bill includes extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.

Passed House; on 9/14/2016 received in the Senate.

### **H.R.5952**

#### **Strengthening Social Security Act of 2016**

Introduced on 9/8/2016 by Representative Linda T. Sanchez (CA-38)

To improve the retirement security of American families by strengthening Social Security.

On 9/8/2016, referred to the House Education and Workforce.

### **H.R.5701**

#### **Grandparent-Grandchild Medical Leave Act**

Introduced on 7/8/2016 by Representative Raul Ruiz (CA-36)

This bill amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the federal civil service law to entitle to leave an eligible employee, including a federal employee, to care for an adult child, grandparent, or grandchild (as well as for a spouse, child, or parent), if that person has a serious health condition.

On 7/8/2016, referred to House Administration.

### **H.Res.867**

#### **Expressing support for designation of September 2016 as “National Kinship Care Month”**

Introduced on 9/14/2016 by Representative Karen Bass (CA-37)

Text [HERE](#)

On 9/14/2016, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

### **H.Res.856**

#### **Expressing support for designation of the week of September 12, 2016 through September 18, 2016, as “Balance Awareness Week”.**

Introduced on 9/9/2016 by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)

Expresses support for the designation of Balance Awareness Week and recognizes the importance of raising public awareness about vestibular (inner ear balance) disorders.

On 9/9/2016, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### **S.3305**

#### **VERIFI Act**

Introduced on 9/8/2016 by Senator Chuck Grassley (IA)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the use of electronic visit verification systems for home health services under the Medicare program.

On 9/8/2016, read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

#### **U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging**

See report identifying ways for seniors to maximize social security benefits [HERE](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Share your opinions with members of Congress!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your

Representative or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the **White House** at this [link](#).

ALSO: USA.gov provides contact information at:  
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ELECTION RESOURCES

**General Election is November 8, 2016.** October 10, 2016 is the voter registration deadline for the General Election.

**Arizona Votes 2016:** <http://www.arizona.vote/>

**Citizens Clean Elections Commission General Election information:**  
<http://www.azcleelections.gov/en/general>

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS& RESOURCES

From [Kaiser Health News](#)

*Geriatric ERs Reduce Stress, Medical Risks For Elderly Patients* [HERE](#).

*[Patients With Dementia Present Communication Challenges in Hospice Care](#)*

Other aging related articles at: <http://khn.org/topics/aging/>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures 2016*

[http://www.alz.org/documents\\_custom/2016-facts-and-figures.pdf](http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/2016-facts-and-figures.pdf)

\*\*\*\*\*

National Alzheimer's Project Act updated information can be found at:  
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>. The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease:  
2016 Update is available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/report/national-plan-address-alzheimers-disease-2016-update>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alzheimer's website: <http://www.alzheimers.gov/>

\*\*\*\*\*

The Aging in Community Committee of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging recently had presentations on **Dementia Friendly Tempe** and the **Arizona Rx Misuse and Abuse Initiative**. Links to shared information are provided below.

\***Dementia Friendly Tempe:** <http://www.dementiafriendlytempe.org/>

\***Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family – Substance Abuse:**  
<http://substanceabuse.az.gov/>

\***Safe Disposal:** [www.dumpthedrugsaz.org](http://www.dumpthedrugsaz.org)

\***Prescription Drug Reduction Initiative:**  
<http://www.azcjc.gov/ACJC.Web/Rx/readmore.aspx>

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disability/NASUAD**

*Friday Updates, September 16, 2016*

### **Report and Recommendations: Fighting Elder Financial Exploitation through Community Networks**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) released a report about how to fight elder financial exploitation by using community networks. The CFPB conducted research nationwide and with the assistance of the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, they attended network meetings and interviewed representatives from 23 elder protection networks and various experts in the field. The CFPB also offered specific recommendations for existing networks and stakeholders to assist in the fight against exploitation.

[Click here](#) to view the publication.

*Friday Updates, September 9, 2016*

## Administration for Community Living

### Webinar: We Can Do Better Together

ACL, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Transportation are hosting a webinar titled: "We Can Do Better Together" Encouraging Health, Housing, Transportation, and Social Service Partnerships: Successful Strategies to Expand Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs. This webinar will highlight their efforts to reach underserved populations by encouraging health, housing, transportation, and social service partnerships.

The webinar will also provide an overview of evidence-based chronic disease self-management education (CDSME) programs and highlight two exemplar CDSME programs that serve affordable housing residents, in partnership with federally qualified health centers, transportation services, and social services. This webinar will be held on Tuesday, September 20, from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm EST. Click [HERE](#) to register.

\*\*\*\*\*

### From the Center on Aging & Work at Boston College

**AGenda:** [\*It's Baaaack: The Flawed Argument that Older Workers Should Step Aside\*](#) by Kevin E. Cahill, PhD

\*\*\*\*\*

## September is Healthy Aging Month

From the National Eye Institute, [\*See Well for a Lifetime Toolkit\*](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**National Council on Aging/NCOA – the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Falls Prevention Awareness Day is September 22, 2016.** This year's theme is **Ready, Steady, Balance: Prevent Falls in 2016.** An array of resources can be found [HERE](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Governor Ducey** signed a proclamation designating **September** as **Falls Prevention Awareness Month in Arizona**. See the **Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition** website: <http://www.azstopfalls.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fiscal News

## **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

**JLBC – [Monthly Fiscal Highlights August 2016](#)** reports “July revenues were \$(15.8) million below the enacted budget forecast.”

Arizona Economic Trends [August 2016](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **INFORMATION& RESOURCES:**

### **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Summit**

**September 17, 2016** from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 1375 E. Broadway Rd, Phoenix AZ

More information [HERE](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Latino Disability Summit & Resource Fair**

**September 17, 2016**, Ability360 Center, 5025 E Washington Street, Phoenix

More information [HERE](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Caregiver event: *Mimosas and Mindfulness***

**Saturday, September 17, 2016**, 9:00 am to 12:15 pm, Sheraton Mesa Hotel Wrigleyville West, 860 N Riverview in Mesa

Register at : [www.oakwoodcreativecare.org](http://www.oakwoodcreativecare.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **As Dementia Progresses: Next Steps for Caregivers**

**Monday, September 19, 2016** from 2 – 4 pm, Banner Sun Health Research Institute, 10515 W Santa Fe, Morin Auditorium, Sun City AZ

**Registration is required** due to limited space and materials, **call 623-832-3248** to register.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **DUET Caregiver Symposium**

**October 6, 2016** from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

**[Caregiver Symposium Registration Here](#); [Facebook Event: Duet Caregiver Symposium](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Weaving The Old With The New: Care for the Caregiver, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native Americans**

**Friday, October 21, 2016** from 7:30 am to 3:45 pm, Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, 2281 Resort Blvd., Flagstaff AZ 86004

More information **[HERE](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Arizona Summit on Volunteerism & Civic Engagement**

**November 3-4, 2016**, ASU West Campus, Glendale

Registration **[HERE](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Caregiver Education Conference, Caregiver Consortium**

**Friday, November 18, 2016** from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, DoubleTree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson

More information **[HERE](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Arizona Geriatrics Society 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Symposium**

### **Optimizing Care and Preventing the Preventable**

**November 11 & 12, 2016**, Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix

**[View the full program and register online](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*



**State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)** – is a free health benefit counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their families or caregivers.

More information [HERE](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pima Council on Aging Medicare Conference** – topics and dates listed at:  
<https://www.pcoa.org/medicareconference/>

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **Flinn Foundation** *Arizona Bioscience News*

[\*\*Yuma tribe, company propose turning old Kmart into village for Alzheimer's patients\*\*](#)  
/ Arizona Science Desk

\*\*\*\*\*

If you haven't seen the **Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan: A Framework for Action**, click [HERE](#). The **Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services – A Profile of Older Arizonans** is posted at:  
<https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/dl/AAA-1251APAMPD.pdf>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CarFit** – education program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles “fit” them. <http://www.car-fit.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**U of A Mini Med School:** <http://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/minimed>

\*\*\*\*\*

**In case you missed it last time...**

From the **Administration for Community Living**

***\$2.2 Million in ACL Grants to Enhance State Adult Protective Services Systems***

August 18, 2016 news release: [HERE](#).

(This includes an award to **Arizona** as one of 13 states selected; see the release for more information.)

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**

**AGenda Aging & Work Blog:** [\*Elder Care Is Everyone's Issue\*](#)

By Judi Casey, WorkLife Consultant

\*\*\*\*\*

**National Council on Aging/NCOA**

**Aging Program Funding Table** (updated July 12)

<https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/FY17-July.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*

From *Governing* Daily Newsletter

July 27, 2016 By Stateline

[\*\*The Silent Drug Epidemic of Older Adults\*\*](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

The **SHORT** List web report provided [HERE](#) includes the abbreviated list of bills tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging during the last session. You can see the final outcome of legislation at the top of the report. (Be sure to click on the bill number for more information including fact sheets, bill versions, amendments, votes, and action taken on the bill.) Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list *does not* represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It *does* mean that the topic is something that could be of interest or have an impact on older Arizonans. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Plan ahead for the next legislative session!**

Resources on the [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) website

Need to learn more about the legislative process? See [Arizona Bill](#) or [Bill to Law](#).

Find and review bill information [HERE](#).

Learn about the budget process [HERE](#).

Research the State Constitution [HERE](#).

Learn more at *Frequently Asked Questions* linked [HERE](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

### Share your thoughts at any time!

If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you may voice your thoughts at any time by contacting the:

- **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at **602-542-4331 in Phoenix; 520-628-6580 in Tucson** and **in-state toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 ( outside Maricopa County only)** or
- **Legislators** from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website and looking for: [How Do I Find or Contact my Legislators?](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Current** members of the House of Representatives and Senate are listed on the Arizona State Legislature website at the following links if you wish to contact them by phone or email.

Members of the [House](#)

Members of the [Senate](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? Maps can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

If you're interested

Past issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

\*\*\*\*\*

You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a

link or pdf document to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.

\*\*\*\*\*

Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* on a monthly basis.

**Enjoy the fall weather!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

**Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**

**\* PH: (602) 542-4710 \* Fax: (602) 542-4774 \* E: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov)**